

The suggestion of Oeder,<sup>1</sup> to which Ehrhart refers, is (also freely translated) as follows: "There may be proposed, for common non-botanical conversational use, names which we may call nomina 'usualia,' always independent names, having no connection or relation to classification, to genus, or to specific relationship, but one for each species, relating to itself alone. It will be permissible, then, for species known by these 'nomina usualia' to be arranged freely by botanists in their respective systems and transferred at will, to be associated in genera and to be reclassified, for under all these changes of methods each name would remain unchanged."

Had Ehrhart foreseen the confusion in botanical nomenclature that might be caused by his innocent "nomina usualia," he would probably have refrained from his attempt to amuse and accommodate his friend Dahl. But surely he did all that could be expected from him in the way of explaining his intent, and warning later botanists away from the pitfall into which some have blindly walked. It is evident, however, that a fresh warning is needed, particularly as many of Ehrhart's "nomina usualia" have found their way as generic names into modern nomenclators, and we have with us many who are willing to accept without question the thousands of errors that are inevitable in works of that character.

Of course the preceding discussion should not be misinterpreted as a criticism of the validity of the various generic names proposed as such by Ehrhart in his other writings. His concept of genera and species, and the nomenclature of these categories, was by no means hazy or erratic.

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PANICUM ALBEMARLENSE IN CONNECTICUT.—Only two stations are given for *Panicum albemarlense* in the Connecticut Catalogue, namely Waterford and Southington. It therefore seems worth while to report the species from Franklin. The particular locality where it was found is a short, low gravel ridge. This is in fact a veritable *Panicum* "garden." There are a few *Lecheas* there, it is true, (*L. villosa*, *L. intermedia*, *L. tenuifolia* and *L. maritima interior*), but *Panicums* make up the bulk of the vegetation. The following species occur here: *P. tennesseense*, *P. albemarlense*, *P. implicatum*,

<sup>1</sup>Elem. Bot. 137. 1764.



*P. huachucae*, *P. villosissimum*, *P. linearifolium*, *P. depauperatum*, *P. sphaerocarpon*, *P. columbianum* and *P. tsugetorum*, the last being the exceptionally hairy form once described as *P. lanuginosum* var. *siccatum*.<sup>1</sup> Of the above, *P. albemarlense* and *P. implicatum* are the more abundant, but all the other species mentioned are well represented, no species, of which merely one or two plants were seen, being included in the list. Specimens of *P. albemarlense* and *P. tsugetorum* have been verified at the United States National Museum by Prof. A. S. Hitchcock.—R. W. WOODWARD, New Haven, Connecticut.

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RANUNCULUS PURSHII IN IOWA.—Last July, while doing field work along the east shore of Spirit Lake in northern Iowa, I had the good fortune to find an interesting aquatic crowfoot, namely *Ranunculus Purshii* Richards, which does not appear to have been heretofore recorded from the state. It was growing quite plentifully in what had been a small pond, but at that time was entirely dried up, though the soil was still somewhat moist. The plants, though weak, all grew quite erect and were from six to ten inches high, the small flowers being a very bright yellow. Having never seen a specimen of *R. Purshii* I sent some material of the plant to Dr. B. L. Robinson, who kindly examined it and pronounced it to be this species. Its previously recorded range is thus extended several hundred miles southward in the Mississippi Valley.—R. I. CRATTY, Curator, Iowa State College.

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A RARE VARIETY OF VITIS LABRUSCA.—About the first of October of the present year (1920) I observed on sale in public market in New Bedford two varieties of our native grapes: *Vitis labrusca* L. One of these was of the usual dark purple color but the other was entirely green. The purple colored grapes were not wholly ripe but very nearly so, this being the usual condition of such grapes when used in the household for making grape jelly.

I asked the salesman what the unripe green grapes were used for, there being about half a bushel of this variety. He replied that the green grapes were ripe and sweet and used for the same purpose as the purple ones. I learned that these green grapes were brought in by a

<sup>1</sup>North American *Panicum*, Hitchcock & Chase, Contrib. U. S. Nat. Herb. xv. 245 (1910).